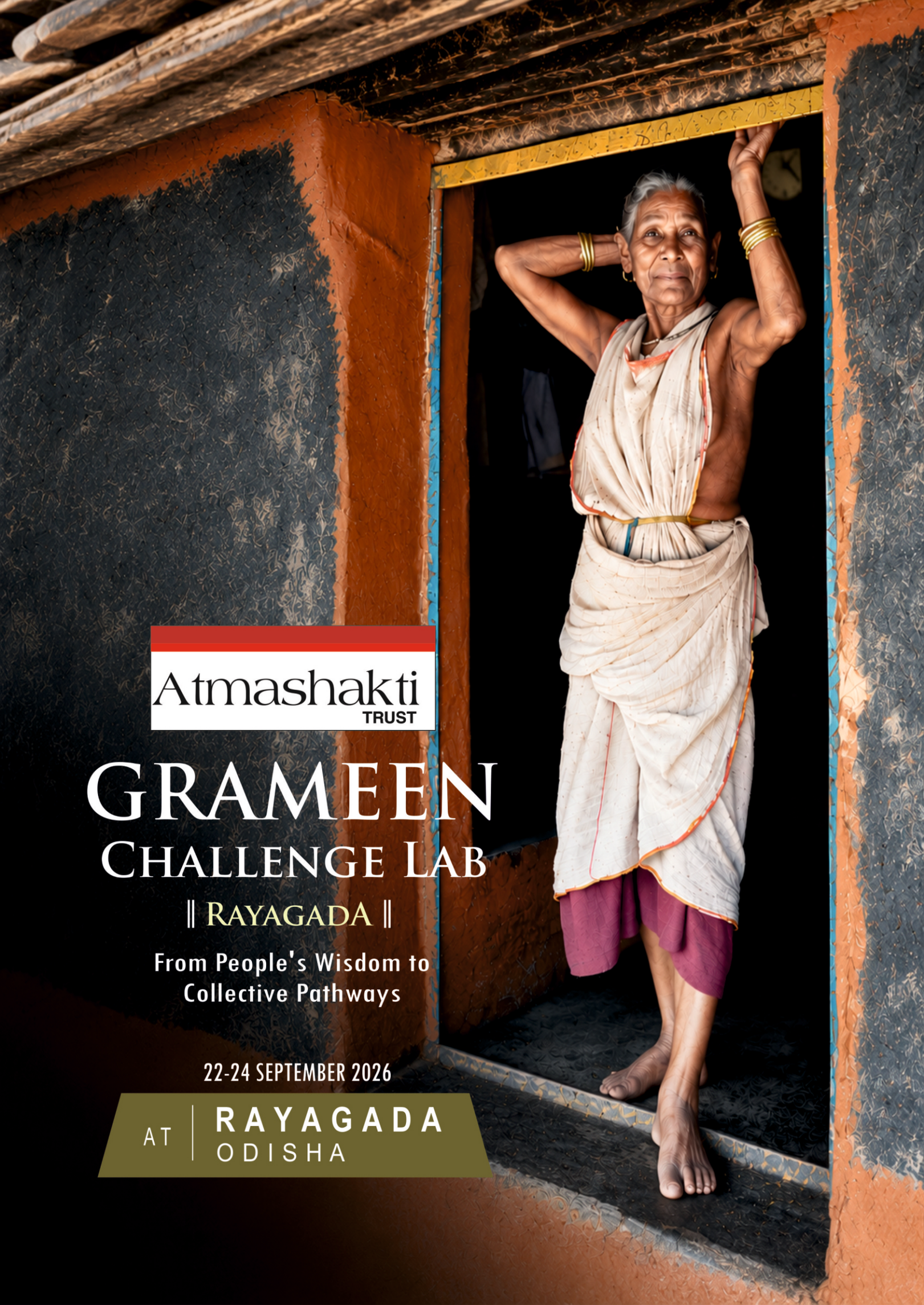


Atmashakti TRUST

GRAMEEN CHALLENGE LAB

|| RAYAGADA ||

From People's Wisdom to Collective Pathways

22-24 SEPTEMBER 2026

AT | RAYAGADA ODISHA



Executive Summary

The Grameen Challenge Lab in Rayagada was a three-day exercise built on approximately six months of community engagement. Its purpose was to help residents move from describing a difficulty to understanding it together, organising a response and following that response through. The Lab took place on 22-24 September 2026, bringing community leadership, village experience and specialist perspectives into one sequence of diagnosis, immersion and pathway building.

Why the process was needed

In the villages entering this process, Atmashakti did not already have the sustained collective-building presence through which it ordinarily supports local action. Early engagement revealed that a concern being voiced did not always mean a documented application had been submitted, responsibility clarified or follow-up organised. People could recognise a problem while lacking an agreed forum, a written record, knowledge of the process or someone to connect the next steps. These observations concern the participating settings; they are not a judgement that remote communities lack knowledge or initiative.

For a village, even a seemingly straightforward issue can require several connected steps: coming together, hearing different experiences, agreeing the problem, collecting evidence, identifying the responsible institution, submitting a request, retaining an acknowledgement and reviewing the response. Where these links are weak, a complaint may remain an informal conversation and an available service may remain difficult to access. Institutions must also respond; community organisation cannot substitute for their responsibilities.

From Grameen Charcha to the Lab

The inquiry was place-based, rooted in Bissamcuttack and the wider Rayagada context. Community participants brought 17 problems into Grameen Charcha. Six were taken forward for preparatory work. Over the following months, conversations, meetings, evidence gathering and local mobilisation helped people examine those concerns and begin building a sequence for action. The September Lab then developed four village pathways; these are a later stage of the process, not a revised count of the original issues.

The six months mattered because collective action had to be built through repeated contact. A meeting could not simply be announced and assumed to produce shared priorities, local anchoring and follow-up. The preparation made it possible to bring residents and leaders into the three-day exercise with a developing understanding of their concerns and a basis for working together.

Why three days

The three days provided a practical sequence: first build a shared diagnosis, then examine it in villages, and finally develop responses with residents and experts. The design allowed participants to revise their understanding after seeing conditions directly. It was a facilitated working cycle within a longer journey, not a claim that three days are enough to resolve complex rural challenges.





Executive summary continue

What happened during the three days

Day 1 brought community leadership together to understand the challenges through a diagnostic lens. The People·s Wall, Challenge and Strength Wall, and journey map helped participants place concerns alongside existing assets and examine what might be sustaining them. The focus was on a clearer shared question before proposing a solution.

Day 2 took mixed teams into four villages. Walks, observation, listening circles, shared meals and conversations allowed them to compare initial assumptions with residents· experiences. Khambesi brought production, pineapple markets and Dongria weaving into view; Gartoli brought nutrition and service follow-up; Ghusuripadar brought migration and local livelihood choices; Mundrumuska brought the reliability and management of drinking water.

Day 3 brought the village learning together with expert support. Participants examined blockages, existing knowledge, institutions and resources, then built locally rooted pathways. The People·s Jury reviewed the proposals. Village anchors and follow-up arrangements, including follow-up committees, provided a way to carry the work into a 30-, 60- and 90-day cycle.

What makes this approach different

The distinction is the connection between preparation, community leadership, direct observation, multiple perspectives and a documented next step. Residents contribute to defining the challenge and assessing the

response. Experts help examine feasibility and options. Atmashakti facilitates relationships and continuity. The Lab does not presume that one perspective explains the whole problem or that an outside solution should be adopted unchanged.

The four pathways made this concrete: stronger organisation and value retention for pineapple and weaving in Khambesi; verification, nutrition follow-up and service connections in Gartoli; locally viable options that expand household choices in Ghusuripadar; and dependable sources, monitoring, maintenance and accountability in Mundrumuska. These are proposed pathways to test, not demonstrated improvements in income, nutrition or water securi

Why this matters in remote areas

The approach is relevant where travel, language, information, institutional access or weak coordination make it difficult to turn a concern into a response. Bringing different actors into a locally grounded process can make the steps visible and share the work of following them. It also creates room for women, youth and knowledge holders to influence the question, provided facilitation deliberately includes them. Wider research on participatory development similarly emphasises context, collective-action barriers and the role of a responsive state. [1]

What the Lab produced and what remains to be tested

The Lab produced four clearer diagnoses, emerging pathways, local anchors and a 90-day action framework. The reflection register contains 125 numbered entries recording learning and intended contributions. These are commitments, not completed actions. Follow-up will examine whether residents sustain meetings, document requests, secure useful responses and adapt the pathways. The following report documents the process and next steps.

[1] Mansuri and Rao. Localizing Development Does Participation Work. World Bank Policy Research Report, 2013. https://www.worldbank.org/en/research/publication/localizing-development-does-participation-work





THE STORY BEGINS

What happens when we look at a village through what people already have?

For several months before September 2026, Atmashakti's engagement with communities in Rayagada had been bringing a range of concerns to the surface — around nutrition, migration, water, livelihoods, agriculture, markets and access to services.

At first, these appeared to be separate problems. But listening more closely revealed something else.

Land without income

A village could have land but limited income from it.

Food without nutrition

A family could have food but still struggle with child nutrition.

Water without security

A village could have water sources but still lack reliable drinking water.

Resources without choice

Young people could have land and local resources but still find migration more economically attractive.

Are villages really short of resources — or are the systems connecting those resources to better outcomes weak?



THE LAB STRUCTURE

Four Villages. Four Entry Points. Three Days.

Khambesi
Pineapple & Dongria Weaving
Production exists. Can it create greater value?

Gartoli
Malnutrition & Nutrition Security
Food exists. Why isn't it translating to better nutrition?

Ghusuripadar
Migration & Livelihoods
Resources exist. Can they create more livelihood choices?

Mundrumuska
Drinking-Water Security
Water sources exist. Why is reliable water still a challenge?



Three days. Four villages. Many perspectives. One shared question: what can we build together from what already exists?





BEFORE THE LAB

From 15 Issues to Four Village Stories

The Challenge Lab was not an isolated three-day workshop. It was the next step in a journey that had started much earlier — beginning in late 2025, community engagement surfaced a wide range of issues affecting everyday life.

Issues Surfaced

- Child malnutrition
- Drinking-water access
- Migration & livelihood insecurity
- Agriculture & markets
- Forest-based livelihoods
- Community institutions & women's work
- Youth opportunities & public services

The Shift in Question

Old Question

What are the problems?

New Question

What is happening, why is it happening, what already exists, and where is the connection breaking?





DAY 1 — UNDERSTANDING

We gathered. We shared. We began to see differently.

The first day brought everyone together. The purpose was not to immediately find solutions — it was to create a shared understanding of the context and allow different perspectives to enter the conversation.

Looking at Rayagada Through Different Eyes

A Place of Challenges

For some, Rayagada was a place of persistent challenges requiring external support and intervention.

A Place of Assets

For others, it was a place rich in land, forests, food traditions, skills, culture, community knowledge and local leadership.

Both perspectives were important. Conversations gradually moved from a focus on deficits towards a more balanced picture — asking what is difficult, what is already working, what resources are present, and what relationships are missing.

> *We began with problems, but ended the day curious about possibilities.*



DAY 1 — THE CHALLENGE & STRENGTH WALL

Almost every challenge sat next to an existing strength

Participants mapped key challenges alongside the strengths they had observed. This exercise produced an important realisation that transformed the conversation.

Challenge	Existing Strength	Village
Weak market access	Existing production (pineapple, weaving)	Khambesi
Child malnutrition	Food, nutrition resources & Anganwadi	Gartoli
Migration for income	Land, forest, labour & SHGs	Ghusuripadar
Water insecurity	Existing tube wells & pond	Mundrumuska

Old Question

"What do we need to bring?"

New Question

"What needs to be strengthened or connected?"

By the end of Day 1, participants were not going into the villages to collect data. They were going to ask: **Does what we think we know actually match what people experience?**



DAY 2 — VILLAGE IMMERSION

We left the room and entered the villages.

Day 2 was the heart of the Lab. Participants travelled to all four villages. The day was deliberately different from a classroom discussion — people walked through the villages, observed, asked questions, listened to community members, explored homes, fields, water sources and livelihood activities.



Khambesi — Looking beyond production

Khambesi already produces. Pineapple has been part of the local economy for decades, with more than 200 households associated. The village also has a strong tradition of Dongria weaving. The question that emerged was not about increasing production — it was about what happens *after* production.





Gartoli — Looking beyond food

The village has agricultural resources, forest foods, pineapple, food knowledge and an Anganwadi. Yet child malnutrition remains a concern. A striking discussion centred on the difference between 7 children identified through one assessment and 17 reflected through another — raising questions about identification, recording, follow-up and service linkages.



DAY 2 CONTINUED — TWO MORE VILLAGES

Two more questions. Two deeper insights.



Ghusuripadar — Looking beyond migration

Migration was visible not simply as a problem, but as part of the household livelihood strategy. Families migrate to Andhra Pradesh for agricultural work. The useful question became: **How can households have more livelihood choices?**

The village already has: land, forest resources, tamarind, livestock, SHGs, women, youth and local knowledge. The issue is whether these assets can generate greater local economic returns.





Mundrumuska — Looking beyond the water source

The village has water sources including tube wells and a pond. But a physical source does not automatically provide secure drinking water. Participants looked at functionality, water quality, seasonal availability, maintenance, responsibility and household burden.

The question was not: *"Does the village have a water source?"* It was: *"Can people depend on that source when they need it?"*







DAY 2 — KEY INSIGHT

What Day 2 Revealed

Although the four villages were very different, participants returned with a surprisingly similar learning. The villages were not empty spaces waiting for solutions.

Resources

Land, forests, water sources, pineapple, livestock — natural assets already present in each village.

Knowledge

Dongria weaving traditions, food knowledge, farming practices — lived expertise of communities.

Institutions

SHGs, Anganwadis, local leaders — existing structures ready to be strengthened.

People

Women, youth, artisans, farmers — active participants with skills and motivation.

> **The connections between these assets and desired outcomes were often weak. This became the most important insight carried into Day 3.**

DAY 3 — FROM IDEAS TO ACTION

We returned with stories. We left with pathways.

On Day 3, the teams were no longer discussing challenges in the abstract. They were carrying stories from the villages — the pineapple fields, nutrition conversations, migration discussions, and water sources they had stood beside.

From Challenge to Action — The Sequence

01

What is the Challenge?

What are people experiencing on the ground?

02

What Already Exists?

What assets can we build on within the community?

03

Where is the Blockage?

What is preventing better outcomes from existing assets?

04

What Connection Could Help?

What needs to change in the system?

05

What Can We Test?

What is practical within 90 days to produce evidence and learning?



DAY 3 — EMERGING PATHWAYS

The Four Emerging Pathways

Khambesi

From Production to Value

Explore aggregation, processing, market connections and stronger negotiation for pineapple and Dongria weaving.

Gartoli

From Food to Nutrition

Validate the nutrition situation, strengthen follow-up and connect household food practices with public nutrition services.

Ghusuripadar

From Migration to Livelihood Choice

Identify local economic opportunities that can generate stronger returns and expand household choices.

Mundrumuska

From Water Sources to Water Security

Map the water system, strengthen monitoring and clarify maintenance, responsibility and accountability.

Questions for the next phase

Khambesi: Test a specific organisation or market connection before promising greater income.
Gartoli: Verify assessment differences and track nutrition and service follow-up.
Ghusuripadar: Examine demand, costs and returns for a locally desired livelihood option.
Mundrumuska: Clarify functionality, maintenance and equitable access to dependable water.



OVERVIEW

What the Lab Produced

Not a Single Solution

The most important outcome of the Lab was not a list of activities. The Lab did not produce a single solution for Rayagada. It produced something more useful.

Something More Useful

A clearer understanding of where the real blockages lie, a recognition of the assets that already exist within communities, four locally rooted pathways, local people who can carry them forward, and a 90-day framework through which these pathways can be tested and improved.





SHIFT 1

From Problems to Systems

After the village immersion, each challenge became more connected.

Market

A market problem was also an organisation and value-capture problem — more connected than it first appeared after the village immersion.

Nutrition

A nutrition problem was also a follow-up and service-linkage problem. Each challenge deepened in complexity once the community context was understood.

Migration & Water

A migration problem was also a livelihood-choice problem. A water problem was also a governance and accountability problem.

SHIFT 2

From Deficits to Assets

Communities Already Possess Significant Resources

The Lab repeatedly reminded participants that communities already possess significant resources. The question is not always: *What can we provide?* Sometimes it is: *What can we strengthen, connect and organise differently?*

1

Recognise

Acknowledge the assets, knowledge, and capacities that already exist within communities before seeking external solutions.

2

Strengthen

Build on what is already working rather than replacing local systems with imported ones.

3

Connect

Link existing resources, people, and institutions in new ways to unlock potential that is already present.

4

Organise Differently

The most powerful change often comes from reorganising existing assets rather than adding new ones.



SHIFT 3

From Solutions to Experiments

1 — **Problem Identification**

The journey began with how the challenges in Rayagada were being understood — market, nutrition, migration, water.

2 — **Diagnosis**

After village immersion, each challenge became more connected, revealing systemic blockages and hidden assets.

3 — **Possibility**

The Lab identified questions that can now be tested — four locally rooted pathways with local people to carry them forward.

4 — **Collective Action**

A 90-day framework now enables these pathways to be tested and improved. The next phase is about learning through action.

> **"I want to contribute to positive change in my community." — Participant voice from the Lab**

THE COMMON PATTERN

Strong Assets. Weak Links.

Across all four villages, the same pattern emerged — not a shortage of assets, but a weakness in the systems connecting those assets to outcomes.

Village	What Exists	What Needs Strengthening	Emerging Pathway
Khambesi	Production + craft (pineapple, Dongria weaving)	Market access and value chain	Produce → Organise → Retain Value
Gartoli	Food + Anganwadi services	Nutrition follow-up and service linkage	Verify → Follow Up → Close Gaps
Ghusuripadar	Land + forest + labour + SHGs	Local economic returns & livelihood choice	Assets → Organise → Earn → Choose
Mundrumuska	Tube wells + pond (water sources)	Management, governance and security	Understand → Govern → Ensure Equity

> **The recurring challenge is not the absence of assets. It is the weakness of the systems connecting assets to outcomes.**



THE ROAD AHEAD

The Lab ends. The learning begins.

The three days in Rayagada were only the beginning of the next phase. The four pathways now enter a 90-day period of experimentation and learning. The immediate priority is to stay close to the villages — to act, observe, listen again, document and adapt.

1 — **Now — 90 Days (2026)**

Four village teams start agreed experiments, track what happens, listen to community feedback and adapt the pathway.

2 — **Next — Build the Learning**

After 90 days, four experiences come together. What changed? What surprised us? Which connections became stronger? What still needs attention?

3 — **Kalahandi — 2027**

A new context. New challenges. New assets. Applying documented learning from Rayagada to a new district.

4 — **Sambalpur — 2028**

Compare, adapt and deepen learning across multiple district contexts.

5 — **Other Districts/States — 2029 Onward**

Build a wider learning network. Replication does not mean copying — it means adapting documented learning to a new context.



VOICES FROM THE LAB

What emerged when communities began to see their own possibilities?

COMMUNITY VOICES | HUMAN REFLECTIONS | A WAY FORWARD

01

"If I can work for my village and contribute towards achieving its goals, I can make a meaningful difference."

Uma Shankar Kadraka
Village Anchor, Khambesi

02

"I really wanted to see the changes in our village."

Binod Kulesika
Village Anchor, Mundrumuska

03

"We should work together with the people."

Binod Kulesika
Village Anchor, Mundrumuska

04

"I want to contribute to positive change in my community."

Rabi Wadaka
Village Anchor

05

"I am very thankful to the people of this village."

Nara Pratika
Village Anchor / Volunteer, Ghusuripadar

06

Test → Learn → Adapt.

Challenge Lab principle

*From listening to **locally rooted action.***



Participant reflections and commitments

The reflection and commitment register adds a record of how participants understood their experience and what they intended to do next. It contains 125 numbered entries across identity, cultural pride, reflection, intended practice and contribution fields. This is a count of entries in the supplied register, not a verified attendance figure or a count of completed actions.

What participants proposed to carry forward

Convening and collective action. Entries describe bringing residents together, creating space for concerns, identifying village issues and working towards practical responses. This gives the continuing process a local organising purpose beyond a one-time event.

Documentation and institutional connections. Proposed contributions include recording problems, presenting concerns to departments, coordinating with local leaders and contacting relevant service institutions. These commitments connect directly with the application, evidence and follow-up gaps observed during preparation.

Continuity in villages. Several entries mention regular visits, telephone contact, monitoring plans and sustained follow-up. Some explicitly propose twice-monthly village visits. These are intentions to confirm with the people concerned, not an agreed schedule for everyone.

Sharing learning. Participants propose taking lessons back to their own communities, involving youth and sharing experiences with other villages. Cultural pride, language, food, traditions and local knowledge also appear in the identity responses, providing context for how people see their contribution.

The support needed to make commitments practical

One recorded response states, ·I do not know what I will do.· It sits alongside a commitment to continue conversations and understand people·s problems. This is a useful reminder that willingness may precede clarity about a role. Follow-up should help each interested participant identify a specific, feasible contribution and the support needed to make it.



How to interpret the evidence

Many entries repeat identical or closely similar wording. Some fields are missing, and parts of the PDF text are truncated. These records therefore cannot establish 125 independent learning outcomes or support reliable theme percentages without checking the original responses. The statements should be reported as recorded commitments, with important wording confirmed before being attributed publicly. Personal contact details are excluded from this report.

How these records will inform the next review

Invite willing participants to confirm one contribution, the village or issue it concerns, a first step and a review date. At 30, 60 and 90 days, record whether it was started, completed, adapted or blocked, what evidence supports that status and what residents found useful. Keep the register open to people who could not attend and want to contribute. Participation in this next phase should be based on a clear local need and an agreed contribution.

Source: GCL Reflection and Commitment THIS IS US, supplied participant register. Analysis is descriptive; repeated wording, incomplete fields and truncated text limit interpretation. Commitments are not evidence of delivery or impact.

From a village concern to collective action

The Lab supports a continuing process. The steps can be revisited as evidence, priorities and institutional responses change.

17
Problems brought to Grameen Charcha

6
Concerns taken forward for preparation

4
Village pathways developed in the Lab

1. **Come together**
   Hear different experiences and agree who needs to be involved.
2. **Understand the challenge**
   Use dialogue and village immersion to examine causes, assets and gaps.
3. **Document and agree**
   Check evidence and decide which problem and first step to prioritise.
4. **Connect with the right people**
   Identify relevant institutions, expertise, resources and local responsiblities.
5. **Begin a feasible action**
   Submit a documented request or test a locally agreed response.
6. **Review at 30, 60 and 90 day**
   Record what happened, who found it useful and what remains blocked.
7. **Adapt and continue**
   Revise the pathway and keep residents involved in the next decision.

Community leadership and institutional response belong throughout this process. These are proposed steps for continuing work, not evidence that every step has already been completed.







NEXT STEPS

The 90-Day Experiments

The Lab deliberately avoided making large promises. Instead, each village will begin with a small experiment that can produce evidence and learning. The focus is on what is practical — not what is perfect.

1	2	3
30 Days — Start	**60 Days — Test**	**90 Days — Learn**
Begin the first agreed action in each village. Anchor community representatives initiate the experiment.	Observe what changes and where difficulties emerge. Listen to community feedback and document.	Review the evidence and decide what should be adapted, strengthened or reconsidered.

People Who Will Carry the Next Step

The next phase will be anchored by community representatives: **Uma Shankar Kadraka, Binod Kulesika, Rabi Wadaka, Nara Pratika.** Their role is not simply to implement a plan — they are part of the process of carrying the learning forward and helping the experiments remain connected to village realities.

What the reviews should record

- **At 30 days:** The agreed action, starting situation, people involved and first documented step.
- **At 60 days:** The response received, barriers encountered and changes agreed with residents.
- **At 90 days:** What changed, who found it useful and whether to continue, adapt or stop.

A recorded commitment, an agreed action and a completed useful result are different



Way forward

Continue the collective process in each village

The first priority is continuity in the four villages. Return the pathways to residents, explain them in accessible language and agree the first action. Confirm how each village anchor and follow-up committee will convene people, retain records and connect with the relevant institution. An anchor should help residents act together; the process should not depend permanently on one individual.

Regular meetings should bring affected households into the review, including women, youth and people who did not attend the Lab. Record the issue discussed, differing views, the decision, the next step and its review date. Participation should give people influence over the plan, rather than ask them only to attend or endorse it.

Make the route from concern to response visible

Where the pathway concerns a public service, help residents establish the facts, identify the responsible office, prepare an appropriate written request, retain a copy and acknowledgement, and follow up through the relevant process. Where it concerns a livelihood, establish the practical option, interested participants, market or technical requirements and risks before committing resources. Different challenges need different routes; an application alone will not solve every problem.

Create a simple village record containing the agreed problem, available evidence, assets and support, actions taken, responses received and unresolved questions. This record should remain accessible locally and travel with the issue when it moves between institutions. It can reveal whether a delay concerns missing information, an unclear mandate, resources, coordination or an institution's failure to respond.

Use the first 90 days as an action and learning cycle

Review point	Proposed work	Evidence to retain
By 30 days	Confirm the pathway, committee and anchor arrangements. Begin one feasible action; establish the starting situation.	Meeting decision, action record, application or technical request where relevant, and acknowledgement.
By 60 days	Check progress with residents and relevant institutions. Examine obstacles and adjust the first action.	Dated response, observations, participant feedback, reasons for delay and agreed revision.
By 90 days	Review what changed, what did not and what should continue, change or stop.	Comparison with the starting situation, local assessment of usefulness and next-cycle decision.

These are review points, not a deadline for declaring success. Complex clinical, infrastructure or market changes may require longer. Report a request submitted, an action agreed, an action completed and a useful result as different stag

Way forward continued

Test the four pathways against practical question

Khambesi: Can producer or artisan organisation improve a specific market connection, negotiation or value-retention opportunity? Establish current arrangements and costs, check demand and test a manageable step before promising greater income. Pineapple and weaving may need different technical and market responses even when both require stronger organisation.

Gartoli: Can verified identification lead to consistent follow-up and better connections with nutrition and health services? The report records differing counts of seven and 17 children across assessments. Their dates, coverage and assessment criteria must be reconciled with appropriate health personnel before treating the difference as a confirmed service failure. Track referrals and follow-up without exposing children's identities.

Ghusuripadar: Can one locally desired livelihood option provide a credible additional choice? Compare work, costs, seasonality, demand and likely returns. Migration should remain a household choice; the test is whether local opportunities become more viable, not whether migration is automatically stopped.

Mundrumuska: Can residents and responsible institutions improve one verified barrier to dependable drinking water? Clarify source functionality, seasonality, maintenance and response arrangements. Where quality is in question, use appropriate testing rather than appearance or taste. Track who receives reliable access and whose burden remains.

Judge progress through agency as well as delivery

Alongside pathway results, assess whether residents meet regularly, explain the issue more clearly, retain evidence, understand the relevant process and review responses together. Track whose voice influences decisions and whether follow-up can continue with less intensive facilitation. Keep external support available where required; independence must not mean withdrawing assistance before local arrangements are workable.

The record should also include institutional commitments and performance. If residents organise and submit a sound request but receive no response, report that blockage plainly. This is evidence for the next decision, not proof that community participation failed or that residents must shoulder the service obligation themselves.

Build a wider practice through documented learning

Bring the four experiences together after the first review cycle. Share what helped, what was revised and what remains unresolved with participating communities and people who were not at the Lab. Subsequent Labs, including the proposed Kalahandi engagement, can use that learning while undertaking their own local preparation and diagnosis.

The scope is a repeatable process for convening, diagnosis, immersion, pathway building and review. Solutions should be adapted to place. Expansion should follow evidence that local review and institutional connections can be sustained, supported by resources for facilitation, translation, documentation, travel and specialist advice. A growing series should compare how the process works across settings, including occasions when it does not produce the expected change.



FROM PEOPLE'S WISDOM TO COLLECTIVE PATHWAYS

The next chapter will be written in the villages.

The Rayagada Challenge Lab began with a simple concern: *What is not working?* Three days later, the conversation had moved somewhere else.

See
What already exists in communities — assets, knowledge, institutions, people and relationships.

Listen
Where the connection is breaking between existing assets and desired outcomes.

Build
What we can strengthen together — through small experiments, learning through action.

Learn
Through the actions communities take, the changes they observe and the lessons they generate.

The Lab did not produce four finished solutions. It produced something more important: **four clearer questions, four emerging pathways, local anchors and a commitment to learn through action.**

Conclusion

The Rayagada Challenge Lab demonstrates why the work of solving a village problem begins before a solution is proposed. People need opportunities to come together, make different experiences visible, understand the problem, agree a course of action and follow it through. In this initiative, approximately six months of preparation made a three-day shared exercise possible. The Lab then brought diagnosis, village immersion and expert-supported pathway building into a connected sequence.

The journey from 17 community-identified problems, through six concerns taken forward for preparation, to four village pathways shows how a broad list can become a set of focused questions and practical next steps. It does not mean the remaining concerns have disappeared or that four solutions have been proven. It establishes abasis for continuing inquiry and action in specific places.

Its relevance to remote communities lies in the gap between experiencing a difficulty and being able to organise a response. A concern may be discussed without becoming an agreed plan; a request may be spoken without a written record; a service or market opportunity may exist without an effective connection to residents. Atmashakti's experience of building collectives informed the attempt to strengthen these links in places where its sustained presence was still developing.

The Lab also made room to examine resources and difficulties together. Production and skill in Khambesi, food knowledge and services in Gartoli, livelihood assets in Ghusuripadar, and water sources in Mundrumuska provided starting points. The inquiry asked which relationships, arrangements and responses could make them more useful. Recognising assets must go alongside confronting shortages, unequal access and institutional responsibilities.

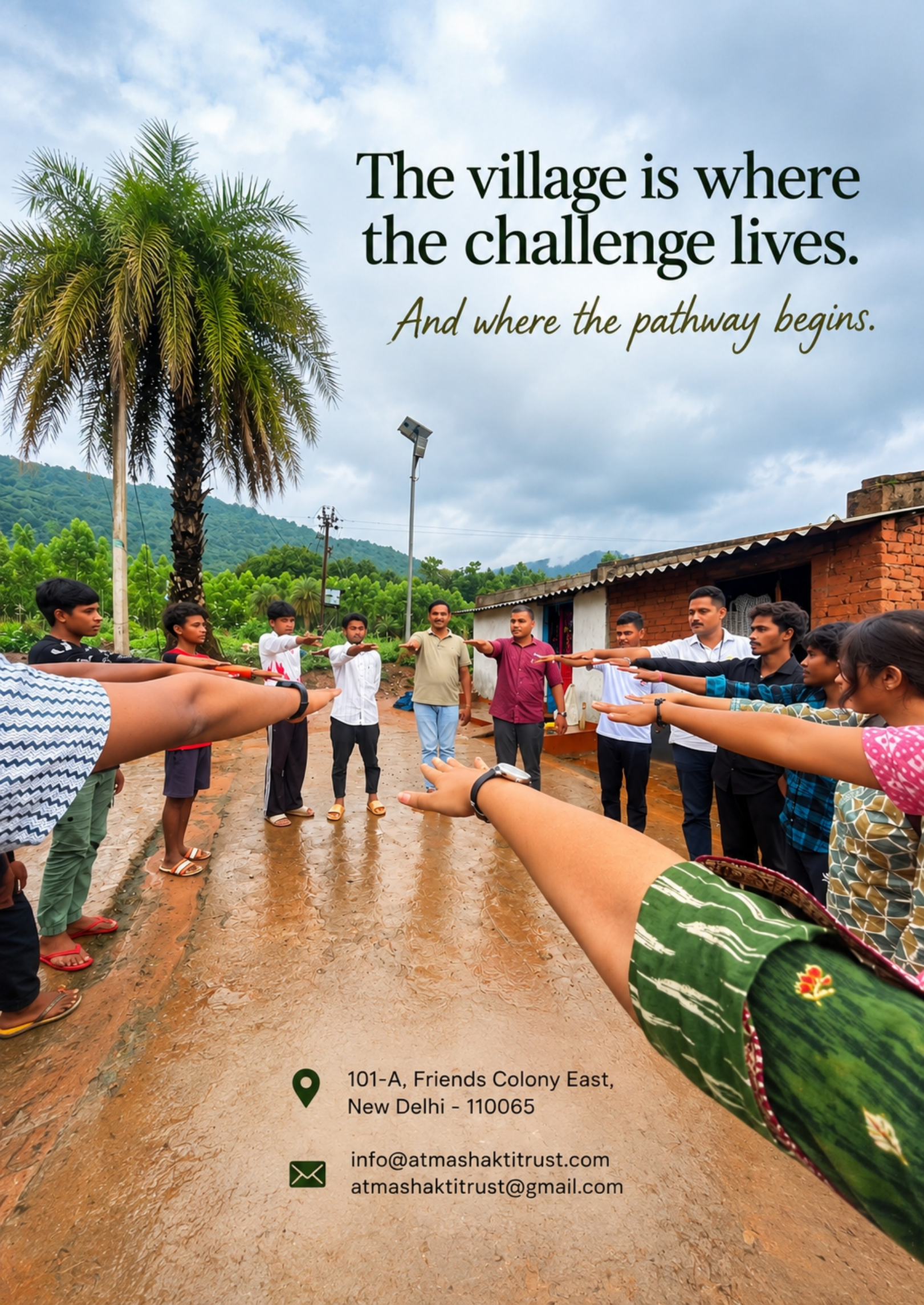
The reflection register also records intentions to convene residents, document concerns, connect institutions and continue village follow-up. These offer a starting point for shared responsibility, with the support each contributor needs clarified during review. The reason for hope is concrete: locally rooted pathways have been articulated, village anchors identified, and a review cycle established to connect discussion with action.

Whether this foundation produces durable change now depends on continuing meetings, inclusive leadership, careful documentation, appropriate specialist support and responsive institutions. Committees and

experiment cards will matter only if they are used and reviewed with residents.

The next 90 days should therefore be treated as the next stage of the Lab. The task is to act, observe, return to the community and adapt. Successful actions can be strengthened; unsuccessful ones can reveal what needs to change. Both should inform future Labs and the support required to sustain community leadership.

The lasting value we seek is a community that can bring people together, frame its own priorities, connect with the institutions and opportunities it needs, and keep reviewing what happens. That capacity, alongside useful responses to the four village questions, is what the continuing process must now build and demons


The village is where the challenge lives.
And where the pathway begins.
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